

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAI-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /149 W

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R 030812Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5534

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL ON MINORITIES

REF: GENEVA 1226

1. SUMMARY: AT COMMITTEE I SESSION, MAY 1, YUGOSLAV REP INTRODUCED REVISED VERSION OF PROPOSAL ON NATIONAL MINORITIES. DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, FOR THE MOST PART MAINTAINED PREVIOUS POSITIONS (SEE REFTEL) WITH WARSAW PACT REPS SUPPORTING YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE, GREEKS OPPOSING, AND NATO COUNTRIES ARGUING THAT IT BELONGED IN COMMITTEE III RATHER THAN COMMITTEE I. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL CONTAINS TWO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES: FIRST IT DEFINES NATIONAL MINORITIES AS "PARTS OF A NATIONALITY DIFFERENT TO THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF THAT STATE AND IDENTICAL WITH THE POPULATION OF A NEIGHBORING STATE." SECONDLY, IT DROPS THE LAST FOUR OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE FEBRUARY 15 PROPOSAL DEALING WITH USE OF NATIONAL LANGUAGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHOOLING, ASSIMILATION AND ACTIVITIES INVITING NATIONAL OR

REGIONAL DISCRIMINATION. YUGOSLAV REP SAID THESE CHANGES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM BY OTHER DELEGATIONS.

3. REVISED YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY GDR, ROMANIANS AND HUNGARIANS. SOVIETS ALSO SUPPORTED THE YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL, JUSTIFYING IT IN TERMS OF SOVIET NATIONALITY POLICY, AND SUGGESTING THAT IT BE TAKEN UP IN SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRINCIPLES AFTER DISCUSSION OF LIST OF TEN PRINCIPLES.

4. WHILE FRENCH AND FRG RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL, THEY MAINTAINED IT WAS SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE III RATHER THAN COMMITTEE I. GREEK DELEGATE, HOWEVER, WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO PROPOSAL ON SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS. HE ARGUED THAT NATIONALITIES QUESTION SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ON BILATERAL BASIS AND DEFINITION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR OTHER FORUMS. INTERESTINGLY, HE CLAIMED THAT THE REVISED PROPOSAL WOULD NOT AFFECT GREECE AND BASED HIS OPPOSITION ON FEAR IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO OTHERS. US DEL DID NOT ENTER INTO THE DEBATE.

5. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV REVISIONS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO REINFORCE ARGUMENT THAT THEIR PROPOSAL IS SUBJECT FOR COMMITTEE I ACTION. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS WILL NOT SATISFY THE GREEKS AND NO BASIS OF COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE HAS YET EMERGED. MEANWHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR LOW PROFILE NOTED REFTEL. END COMMENT.DALE

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